90th ANNIVERSARY 1899-1989

# our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Fall 1989

# Animal Rescue League of Boston

*Publisher of*

**Our Fourfooted Friends**

**Arthur G. Slade**
*Editor*

**Bob Howard**
*Photo Editor*

**M. Arlene Reilly**
*Consulting Editor*

**Officers**

**John C. Hatch**
*Chairman of the Board*

**Arthur G. Slade**
*President*

**Hewitt Morgan**
*Treasurer*

**Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**
*Assistant Treasurer*

**Richard A. Hall**
*Secretary*

**Directors**

**Gage Bailey**
**Walter M. Bird, Jr.**
**Paul J. Brennan**
**Mrs. Alexander H. Bright**
**Shephard Brown**
**Mrs. George M. Cushing, Jr.**
**Mrs. David Dearborn**
**Rev. Robert W. Golledge, D.D.**
**Richard A. Hall**
**John C. Hatch**
**Franklin King, Jr.**
**Mrs. Jeffrey E. Marshall**
**Hewitt Morgan**
**Richard V. Rapacz**
**Harold H. Seward**
**Arthur G. Slade**
**Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**
**Philip W. Trumbull**
**Mrs. Prospere Virden, Jr.**
**John L. Worden III**

**Administrative**

**Thomas H. White**
*Director of Operations*

**Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.**
*Director of Veterinary Medicine*

**Robert P. Kennedy**
*Controller*

**Arthur E. Penny**
*Director of Administration*

**Carol McCarthy**
*Law Enforcement Coordinator*

**Terrie Bierig-Neyland**
*Public Relations Coordinator*

**Edward J. Powers**
*Education Coordinator*

**Animal Shelters**

**Boston**
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts.
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265
**Frank X. Carmichael,** *Manager*
**(617) 426-9170**

**Cape Cod**
Route 6A, E. Brewster, MA 02631-0023
**Lynda Brogden,** *Manager*
**(508) 255-1030**

**North Shore**
378 Highland Ave., Salem, MA 01970-1744
**Debra Black,** *Manager*
**(617) 744-7910**

**Dedham**
**Pine Ridge Animal Center**
238 Pine St., Dedham, MA 02026-4005
**(617) 326-0729**

**Safford Memorial Animal Shelter**
**Robert G. Walsh,** *Manager*

**Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals**
**Michael P. Thomas,** *Superintendent*

---

**Animal Friends Summer School**
96 Megansett Rd., N. Falmouth, MA 02556-0800

**Affiliations**

**Red Acre Farm**
Hearing Dog Center
109 Red Acre Road, Stow, MA 01775

**New England Federation of Humane Societies**
Boston, MA

**American Humane Association**
Denver, Colorado

**World Society for the Protection of Animals**
Boston, MA (Regional Office)

**Our Fourfooted Friends**
(US ISSN 0030 6851) *Published quarterly by the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221.* Price $4.00 a year. Office of Publication, Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Address all correspondence, editorial, subscriptions to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Post Master: Send address changes to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Second Class Postage has been paid at Boston, Massachusetts.

**Fall 1989**
**Volume 86, No. 3**

*Nicole St. Pierre's turtle "Soup" snapped up a second prize.*

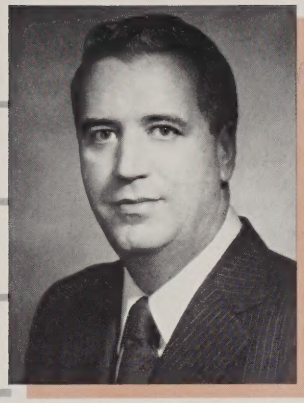
See Pet Show—page 10.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

A Message from the President . . 3
Adoption Doesn't Mean Goodbye . 4
ARL vs. Animal Abuse . . . . . 6
Veterinary Update . . . . . 8
The Height of Concern . . . . . 9
Annual Pet Show . . . . . 10
Animal Friends Summer School . . 12
Newsfront . . . . . 14
Animal Friends Newsletter . . . . 16
Pets in the Picture . . . . . 18

**COVER:**

This photo by Ellen Reppucci of Roslindale won Honorable Mention in adult color division of the League's 90th Anniversary Animal Photo Contest. On the back cover is the second prize photo in the adult color category.



Arthur G. Slade, *President*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## AN ENCOURAGING RESPONSE

I am delighted to tell all of our members and friends that we have had a splendid response to my request for support of Massachusetts Senate Bill 195. In the last (summer) issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends,* I asked that our supporters join with us in contacting their Legislators in support of a new Bill to increase the penalties for animal cruelty committed by the owner or person having custody of an animal. As you will recall, the present Massachusetts law provides a more severe penalty (a felony) for someone who cruelly treats an animal belonging to someone else, and makes it only a misdemeanor for the same crime carried out by the owner or keeper of an animal. The amendment we have proposed will make the latter crime a felony as well, and eliminate the double standard. The present penalty of a five hundred dollar fine or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, would be increased to imprisonment in state prison for up to five years, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars and imprisonment in jail for not more than one year.

The response to our request for help from our readers has been so great that it has not been possible to acknowledge each of your letters individually, and thus I hope my "SPECIAL HEARTFELT THANKS" to each and everyone of you will serve to let you know that I appreciate your wonderful support. I know how much extra time and effort it takes to write these letters and it was especially gratifying to see how many of you made the additional effort to send us copies of your letters as well as your personal words of encouragement. A cause like this one gives all of us a sense that our actions can make a difference in our constant campaign to improve the lives of our animal friends. One of the most exciting things for us is the fact that our members and friends have always been there whenever we have needed them. This situation was no different and our mail bag has been full for weeks.

The really good news, as many of you know from Legislators' replies, is the very encouraging and optimistic responses coming from the State House. Virtually all of the letters we have seen from members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and other Legislators have indicated their strong support for this Bill and there is every likelihood that a new, tougher law will be enacted by the end of this year.

Our remaining problem has been created by the Committee drafting a new Bill by combining our Bill (Senate 195) with another one that sought to increase the penalties for cruelty to animals. Unfortunately, some of the most vital aspects of our Bill were omitted in the drafting of the new Bill. We are hopeful at this writing that we can point out the shortcomings and have the corrections incorporated in the new Bill. The text of Senate Bill 195 is what we need in a new law.

Again, my sincere thanks for your actions and support and I hope to see many of you at our Annual Fair on October 19th.

# Adoption Doesn't Mean Goodbye

*By Terrie Bierig-Neyland*

As a full-service humane organization that places more than 7,000 homeless pets in new homes each year, the Animal Rescue League of Boston is very concerned that its pet adoptions are positive and permanent placements. Each adoption is unique; however, there are many minor problems and questions commonly experienced by many new pet owners. The League has many programs and policies directed at solving those problems and answering any questions asked by pet adopters. These programs help to promote the success of League adoptions and are available to the public, too.

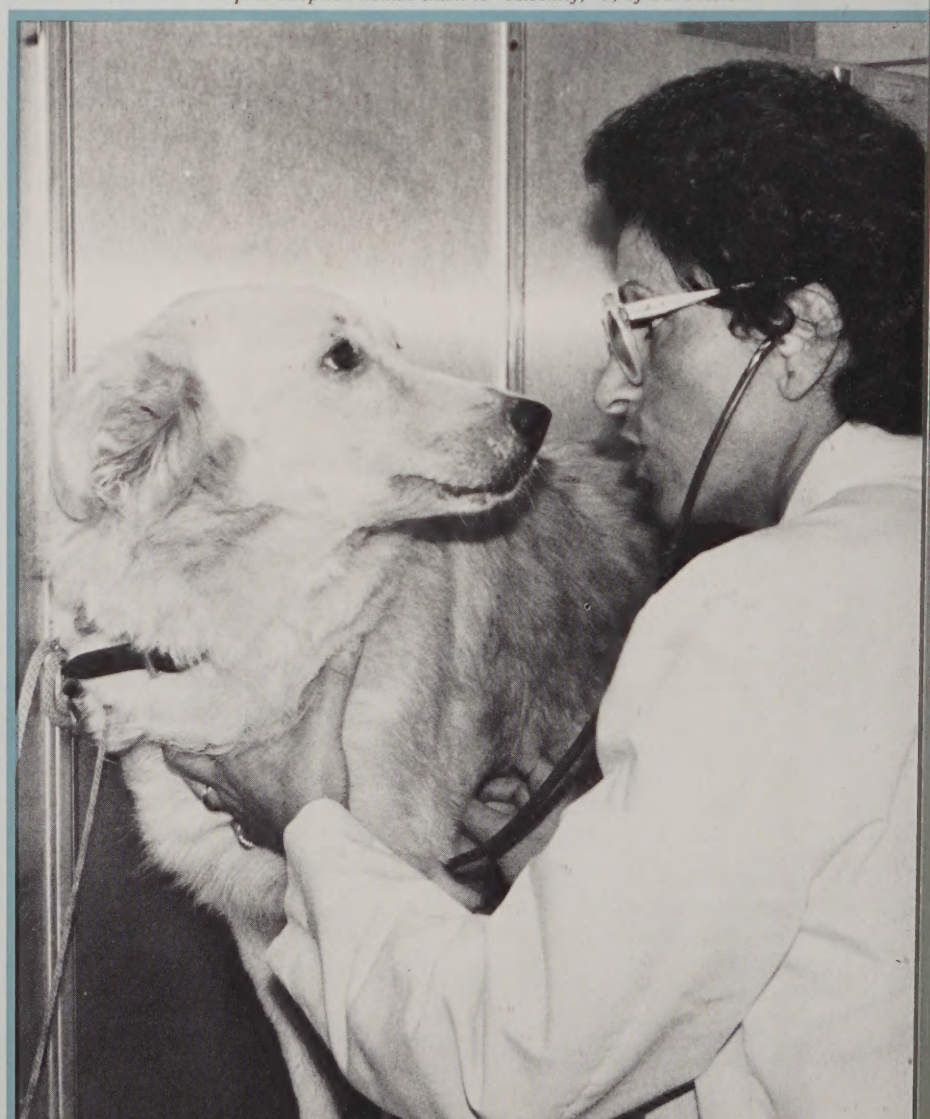
**League Identification Tags**—Every cat or dog adopted at a League shelter is fitted with a collar and identification tag bearing a number that corresponds to its adoption record. Each dog or puppy is adopted wih a leash, too. In the event that a dog owner neglects to obtain a license, the League tag serves as the only means of reuniting a lost League dog and its owner.

**Adoption Questionnaire** – Each pet adopter at the Animal Rescue League of Boston is sent a post-adoption questionnaire concerning the status of the adoption. These questionnaires allow the League staff to address any problems that might have arisen since the adoption. For instance, literature listed on the questionnaire can be requested to address specific behavior problems that are relatively easy to correct. If an adopter writes of a serious medical or behavioral problem, the staff can refer him/her to an expert. Each request for literature or advice is answered promptly, because the alternative might be a failed adoption. Of course, the survey section on the relationship between pet and owner is often the most enjoyable for adoption personnel to read. What could be better than following up on the adoption of animals you cared for, only to discover that pet and owner are getting on famously?

**Neuter Policy**—On July 1, 1988 a law was enacted in Massachusetts that requires all cats and dogs, adopted from humane organizations and dog pounds, to "be spayed or neutered within sixty days, or the deposit shall be deemed unclaimed. Any dog or cat under six months of age at the time it is sold or given away by the shelter shall be spayed or neutered within sixty days after reaching six months of age, or the deposit shall be deemed unclaimed." The "deposit" is a spay/neuter deposit to be credited toward the operation. Long before this law was passed, the League recognized its responsibility to neuter every cat and dog that was adopted. Any other action would only result in the increase of homeless pet populations. Currently, even male rabbits are neutered prior to adoption.

The League clinic employs a "reminder" system in confirming that the young pets adopted from the shelters are neutered. A reminder is mailed to all League pet adopters at the time their young pet has reached the age of six to eight months of age. Through this procedure, the clinic staff can confirm that a pet has been neutered at another clinic or they can schedule an appointment for the pet to visit the League clinic in Boston for the procedure. A fifteen dollar spay/neuter deposit, included in the adoption fee total, covers the cost of the neuter operation when it is performed at the League's clinic.

*League veterinarian Dr. Rashel Shophet gives a post-adoption health exam to "Mischief," 7, of Dorchester.*



*Linda Giuva, adoption coordinator, attaches a League identification tag to this newly-adopted pup.*

**Medical Care**—Through years of experience, the League veterinary staff has learned that many pet adopters are ignorant to the medical needs of their furry charges. Each pet adopted from a League shelter receives an initial vaccination, deworming medicine, ear mite medicine (if required), a feline leukemia test (cats), and the neuter operation (if 6-8 months of age). Unfortunately, some people feel that a veterinary visit will never be required after the adoption. This is not true. Pets must have yearly check-ups and vaccinations so as to maintain immunity to rabies, distemper, etc. To ensure the good health of League pets, the clinic staff send adopters reminder notices when vaccinations are due. This policy has been successful in helping busy pet owners to take the time to keep their pet healthy.

The League policy on veterinary care is that the cost must not be prohibitive. At the League, costs to clinic patrons are kept to a minimum. It costs only $24 at the League clinic for an office visit that includes a check-up, vaccination, and rabies shot. No one in need of veterinary care for their ill pet is ever turned away from the League's clinic. The responsibility of the League, where the pet was adopted, is to make it *possible* for that pet to be properly cared for after the adoption.

**Dog Obedience Class**—The League is proud to join forces with Gail Fisher of Canine Behavior Services, Inc. in holding dog obedience classes at the Animal Rescue League in Boston. The second session of the class began on September 6, 1989. The training method Ms. Fisher uses is non-punitive, so the lessons are a positive experience for both dog and owner. These classes are available to any interested parties; however, League canines are eligible for a discount on the course fee. By offering obedience courses at the League, another valuable, post-adoption tool is available to the staff. When a League dog adopter calls the shelter to say he/she is contemplating "returning" a dog with a behavior problem, the staff can readily offer an alternative. If an owner is committed to the adoption, he/she will very often take the extra step to join an obedience class and work to improve the dog's behavior . . . and their relationship. Fortunately, enrollment has been very good.

Some League pet adopters move out of state before a neuter operation can be scheduled or confirmed. The return rate of post-adoption questionnaires is less than 100%. The availability of the dog obedience classes does not guarantee to reverse every attempted "return" of a League pup. Occasionally, we still hear, "Well, yes, my lost dog is licensed; however, the license is not on him, it is in a kitchen drawer at my home." Unfortunately, some pet adoptions *do* fail, but the League's post-adoption programs will not be cancelled. In fact, even more will eventually be done to monitor and ensure the success of adoptions and the well-being of League pets. League pets are not forgotten when they leave the shelters with new owners. Each adoption is a victory for the staff and each pet adopted is considered a "League pet" forever.

*Dog obedience trainer Gail Fisher puts pets through their paces.*

# Care and Concern in the Courts

The phones at the League never stopped ringing on Friday, May 26th, but nobody minded one bit!

The previous day's *Boston Herald* had carried the story of a three-year-old Rottweiler that had been starved by its owners down to less than half of her normal weight. Responding to a neighbor's complaint, League law enforcement inspectors had taken the dog from its home in Blackstone, where it had been abused and neglected by its owners, and nursed it back to health. She was now available for adoption and the callers, nearly 100 of them, all wanted to give her a new, loving home. It was a difficult decision to make, but the dog was eventually placed with a family whose western Massachusetts home offered several acres of land, and lots of affection. The dog's former owners were charged with cruelty, but disappeared before their arraignment. A warrant is still out for their arrest.

*Less than half its normal weight when rescued by the League (left), this Rottweiler, now strong and healthy, found a new home with Linda and Barry Stacey who were chosen from nearly 100 callers wishing to adopt her.*

*Photo by Bill Belknap, courtesy Boston Herald.*

Another story with a happy ending began in fall, 1987 when a witness saw a man throw his cat, a fluffy tiger named "Kitty Brown," off a bridge and into the Ipswich River. Despite deep water and a swiftly moving current, the cat managed to make it to the bank. The witness, Bill D., jotted down the man's license number and brought the cat to the League. When the owner was located, his excuse for his action was that the cat had caught a rat and he was simply trying to bathe it by tossing it into the river, because the cat objected strenuously to normal baths! After a period of recuperation at the League—and a bath which she appeared to thoroughly enjoy (see photo)—the docile and gentle "Kitty Brown" was adopted by her rescuer. Her former owner was found guilty of cruelty and received a $100 fine.

Not all of the cruelty cases investigated by the League have happy endings, but an increasingly large percentage of them have something else in common—the animals have been mistreated not by strangers, but by the very people they depend upon, their owners. This is one reason that the League has been urging passage of a bill currently before the Massachusetts legislature (#S195) that would upgrade cruelty by an owner from a misdemeanor to a felony, and correspondingly increase the penalties for such actions.

Of the approximately 900 cruelty complaints investigated by the League each year, only about 2-3% ever reach the courts. "We make every effort to work with the people involved to correct the situation," according to law enforcement coordinator Carol McCarthy. "In the majority of cases, neglect is unintentional and we see a substantial improvement in conditions on our return inspection visits."

Those cases that do go to court vary widely in scope and nature. The following list of cases that have been concluded in just the past year offer some idea of their diversity.

- The owner of a mixed labrador, who was seen beating and kicking his pet on Cape Cod last November, pleaded guilty to charges in February and was fined $100. The League was awarded custody of the dog and placed it in a new home where it is doing well.

■ Responding to a complaint in May 1988 about two dogs and several puppies being kept in a car in Roxbury, League inspectors found four adult dogs in very bad physical condition, outside the car yelping in pain, their skin burned by the hot sun after their owner had poured motor oil on them in an effort to treat mange. The puppies were dead and gone, and the car where they had been kept was filled with feces and urine. The League was able to save only one of these dogs. The owner was charged and found guilty of eight counts of cruelty, including failure to provide food, water, sustenance, shelter and veterinary care. He paid a $525 fine and received 18 months probation.

■ "Bruno," a large but gentle male mixed shepherd, was severely injured when his owner tied him to the back of a car bumper and dragged him down Columbus Avenue in Boston. When he was finally forced to stop by horrified onlookers, the dog was bleeding severely. The dog was treated, and recovered, at the League, and the owner was sentenced to one year probation and a $300 fine.

■ A young man from Medford brought his dog to the League to be euthanized. The animal was completely covered by a plastic bag, paralyzed, and infested with maggots. Upon investigation, the man was charged with "depriving the animal of necessary sustenance and medical treatment, and allowing unnecessary suffering."

■ A local guard dog company was prosecuted after several dogs being transported in an unventilated van, on a hot August day, suffered heat prostration. Two of the dogs had been abandoned on a city street in a comatose condition, and later died. A third was found in the van, literally cooked to death. Both the driver, and the company which was judged to be responsible for the actions of its employees, were found guilty, with a total of $600 in fines levied, and one year probation.

■ On a routine inspection of a stable, agents found a young filly named "Anastasia" that had been kicked by another horse and suffered a broken shoulder. She had been kept in a dark stall for over a month, in unsanitary conditions, with no medical treatment. The League took her to Tufts Veterinary School, but it was too late. She could have been saved if she had been brought in earlier, according to attending veterinarians. A jury found the owner guilty of cruelty in March, 1989, almost a year after the incident. The fine was $250, plus $62.50 in surcharges, and one year probation.

■ A woman in Lynn called the League after she saw an inebriated man push a litter of five kittens down a sewer. She and several other witnesses removed the sewer cap and retrieved the kittens, but it was too late to save them. The man later pleaded guilty to cruelty charges and was given a three-month suspended sentence, with a court-ordered evaluation for alcoholism.

■ An East Boston man was witnessed training his dog to be vicious by kicking it and "sic-ing" it on a chicken and a rabbit. The chicken was killed, but the League gained custody of the rabbit and placed it in a new home. The dog could not be found, but its owner was prosecuted and found guilty, with a total fine of $265.

■ Cruelty investigations that are currently pending court action include an animal dealer that provides animals for research institutions who refuses to allow inspection of his records to determine whether the company is dealing in stray pets from pounds, which is prohibited by the law; another research animal supplier who allowed rabbits and guinea pigs to die from lack of water and overheated conditions without air conditioning; a farmer in the western part of the state charged with allowing unnecessary torture and suffering in the case of a pony whose badly outgrown hooves had been cut off with a hacksaw, leaving its feet cut and bleeding. The pony also had an untreated tumor in the facial area which later led to its death. Perhaps most heartrending of the pending cases is that of a pet dog owned by a retired man on the North Shore. The dog, reported missing by his owner, was found deliberately burned to death, behind an abandoned building. The testimony of witnesses in response to a reward offered by the League has implicated two juvenile suspects, but no arrests have been made thus far.

For those who work in the humane field, the accumulation of sad details and needless suffering can create a heavy emotional burden, but there are days that make it all worthwhile—days like May 26th, when the phones rang off the hook, bringing not sad news but an outpouring of love and concern, a reassuring demonstration that most people—the overwhelming majority—really do care!

*Rescued from a river where she was tossed by her former owner, Miss "Kitty Brown" enjoys a bath at the League, in preparation for going home (below) with her new family.*

# A Veterinary Update:

## Coping With Allergies

*By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.*

When pets begin to scratch excessively, the first culprit to be suspected is the flea. If a flea infestation, or skin disease, has been ruled out, however, it is possible that your pet is allergic to something.

Some pets are affected by allergies only at certain times of the year, reacting to such things as pollens, molds, grasses, trees, or even flea bites. Others have problems year-round, suffering allergic reactions to wool or other fabrics, tobacco smoke, certain foods, or even other pets.

The main symptoms of allergies—scratching and chewing the skin—can cause extensive skin damage. Because damaged skin is highly susceptible to bacterial infection, it is important to seek diagnosis and treatment as early as possible.

Obviously, the best treatment is to pinpoint the cause of the allergy and avoid the offending agent. Since this is not always possible, steps should be taken to alleviate discomfort and prevent further skin damage. Your veterinarian can prescribe medication that will relieve itching and allow your pet to live comfortably. Regular bathing and grooming will also help remove allergens from your pet's coat and maintain it in a healthy condition.

### People Allergic to Pets

Many pets, sadly, are given up each year because their owners have developed an allergy to the animal, a sensitivity that can develop years after acquiring a pet. Most allergic reactions are not caused by the animal's fur, but by the dander (microscopic particles of dead skin, similar to human dandruff) which an animal sheds constantly. There are now non-toxic commercial products on the market that can be used on pets to neutralize and reduce or eliminate dander allergens. A brochure on fighting pet allergies with one such product can be obtained from: Allerpet, Inc., P.O. Box 1076, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021.

### New Weapon Fights Fleas

Clinical testing of a new electronic flea collar has demonstrated that the product is more effective than chemicals in controlling fleas. The electronic collar emits Pulse Modified Burst Circuit (PMBC) ultrasound waves, which are effective in killing fleas, according to an article in the August issue of *DVM Magazine.*

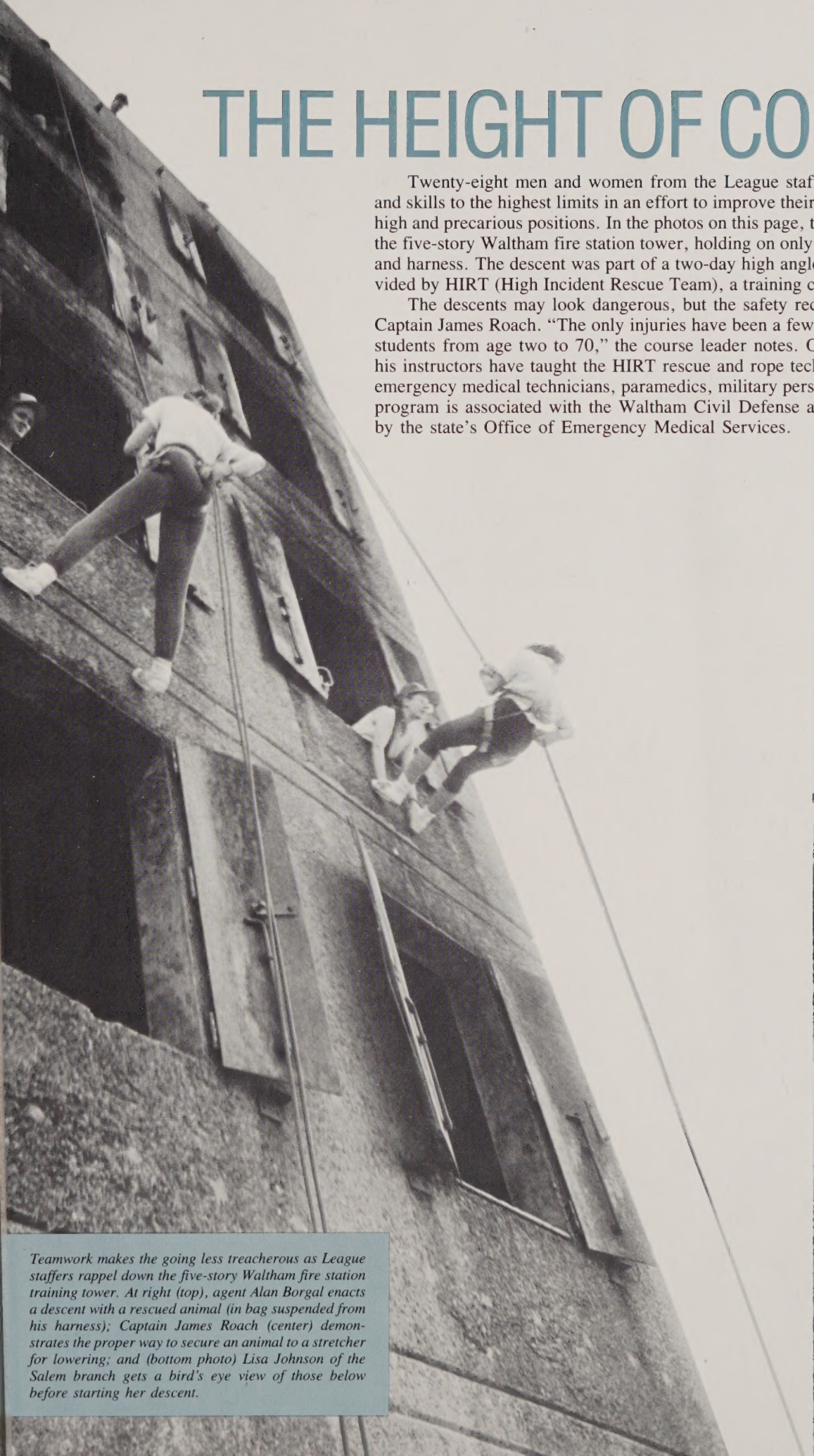
### Heartworm Reminder

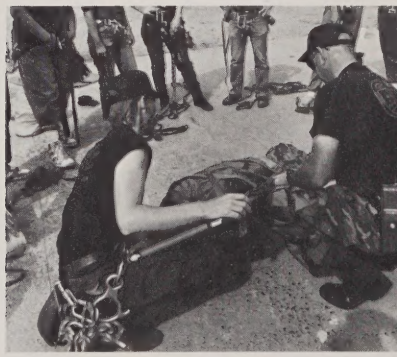
If your dog is on daily doses of heartworm prevention medication, don't forget that the medication should be continued until *two months after* the mosquito season has ended. In New England, this means that treatment should be continued into early December. For dogs that are on monthly medication, the treatment can be discontinued one month after the mosquito season, usually with the November dosage.

# THE HEIGHT OF CONCERN

Twenty-eight men and women from the League staff recently tested their courage and skills to the highest limits in an effort to improve their ability to rescue animals from high and precarious positions. In the photos on this page, they are shown rappeling down the five-story Waltham fire station tower, holding on only to ropes secured to a belt loop and harness. The descent was part of a two-day high angle rescue training program provided by HIRT (High Incident Rescue Team), a training course in operation since 1979.

The descents may look dangerous, but the safety record is excellent, according to Captain James Roach. "The only injuries have been a few scraped knees, and we've had students from age two to 70," the course leader notes. Over the past ten years he and his instructors have taught the HIRT rescue and rope techniques to firefighters, police, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, military personnel and civilian groups. The program is associated with the Waltham Civil Defense and Rescue Unit and approved by the state's Office of Emergency Medical Services.





*Teamwork makes the going less treacherous as League staffers rappel down the five-story Waltham fire station training tower. At right (top), agent Alan Borgal enacts a descent with a rescued animal (in bag suspended from his harness); Captain James Roach (center) demonstrates the proper way to secure an animal to a stretcher for lowering; and (bottom photo) Lisa Johnson of the Salem branch gets a bird's eye view of those below before starting her descent.*

# PET SHOW '89



1



2



3



4

5

7

8

9

6

Here are the first prize, blue ribbon winners in the League's 37th annual Pet Show, held July 22, at Nye Field in North Falmouth. These pets and their young owners were chosen by the judges from among approximately 70 entrants, on the basis of quality of pet care, appeal and the quality of the relationship between the youngsters and their pets.

1. *"Tony" wins a hug from owner Meghan Finn, 12, after his good behavior won first prize in the dog obedience competition.*
2. *Kimberly Damron, 9, hugs "Tyler" after the mini-poodle took top honors in the puppy contest.*
3. *Jessica Ryan, 12, and her cat "Frisky" won the Best of Show Trophy after capturing first prize in the cat category.*
4. *"Mandy," a dwarf Dutch rabbit owned by Rory Seymour, 12, hopped off with the blue ribbon for fourfooted miscellaneous pets.*
5. *"Skeeter," a yellow labrador owned by Kevin Maikath, 8, won the blue ribbon in the male dog category.*
6. *Kyle Maikath, 11, relaxes with his parakeet "Woody" who won first prize in the miscellaneous pets with two feet category.*
7. *Lindsay Boynton, 9, poses with her best girl "Buster" who won first prize in the girl dog competition.*
8. *"Tigger" has something to purr about, after winning a first prize ribbon in the kitten contest for proud owner Kaylan Fronius, 6.*
9. *"K.C." displays the form that fetched a first prize ribbon as "Best Tailwagger" for Ryan Fitzgibbons, 8.*

*Camper Michael Crowley, 5, introduces a rooster to his offspring!*

# THE ANIMAL FRIENDS SUMMER SCHOOL

*Kyle Lonergan, the author, was assistant director of the summer school. Counselor Liam Craig was this year's winner of the Florence E. Buttrick Award for outstanding counselor. Recipients of the Walter Dethloff Awards for outstanding campers were: Session I—James Cronin and Angela Kunselman; Session II—Mandy Walis and Michael Anastasia.*

# A WINNING FORMULA

By Kyle Lonergan

The Animal Friends Summer School offers children an enjoyable summer while learning to properly care for animals. In its 39th year, the camp has just recently completed another successful season. While sharing the same summer experience, counselors and campers provide different insights into the value of the Animal Friends Summer Camp.

This summer, I posed this fill-in-the-blank question to some of the people around camp: "When I think of the Animal Friends Summer Camp, I think of _____." Here is what they had to say.

"I think of a fun, rewarding, exciting time for all!" exclaimed Dave Buttrick, the Ocean Ecology teacher.

"Fun! I think of an exciting time. But fun is definitely the best word," echoed Mike Anastasia, camper extraordinaire and recent winner of the Walter J. Dethloff award.

Jeff Melinn, the Group Adventures instructor, added, "I think of this camp as a forefront for thriving peer relations. A place where kids not only learn, but have a great time doing it."

Needless to say, the Animal Friends Summer Camp is a good time for all. But that is only half of the story. Through hands-on experience, children learn to respect and care for animals. The camp emphasizes direct contact with animals to prepare each camper for the responsibilities that accompany pet ownership.

The camp integrates the children with animals in a variety of settings. On the camp farm, youngsters interact with pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, and a cow. The campers clean and feed the animals throughout the week. Also located on the farm is the Horse Class. This class works with two ponies and two horses. In a typical week the campers will groom, feed, and care for the animals; at the end of the week they will saddle and ride the horses. At ages five through eleven, the campers enjoy a unique experience that may develop into a lifetime love for horses.

The farm, however, does not offer the only interaction with animals. In the popular Pet Care class, the campers handle animals they will more likely come into contact with as owners—gerbils, guinea pigs, birds, hamsters, fish and rabbits. The Pet Care class teaches that owning such an animal is a large responsibility, but it is also a rewarding one. Down the hall from Pet Care is the Ocean Ecology class. This class is blessed with ideal surroundings that the instructors utilize as tools to convey to the campers the importance of the ocean environ-

*Students from Boston's Charles E. Mackey school attended a special pre-season session at the summer school.*

ment. Located on an estuary and situated close to the bay and many diverse ecosystems, the camp enables the class to visit a variety of habitats. The class concludes the week with a visit to the Woods Hole Aquarium. This year the group was even able to take a tour of Alvin, the mini-sub that was used to take pictures of the Titanic.

Although there were no sunken treasures to be found on camp grounds this summer, the Wildlife class appeared to be searching. This class spends much of its time meandering through the woods on the camp's nature trails which are dispersed among the 27 acres the Animal Rescue League owns. In these times of environmental peril, the Wildlife class must confront some tough issues: global warming, habitat destruction, and endangered species are a few of the many environmental issues the teacher introduces to the campers. Another class that does a lot of traversing is the Pet Therapy class. This class travels by van to local nursing homes with animals from the Pet Care class. The campers share their love for animals with the elderly. During class time, the elderly handle the animals and talk with the children. The Pet Therapy class shows one more way animals can bring happiness into people's lives.

The other classes offered at the Animal Friends Summer Camp are similar to classes you might find at other camps with one exception. In some way the counselors always integrate animals into their classes. The Candlemaking and Woodworking classes accomplish this objective in a similar way: all of the projects are fashioned after animals. In Candlemaking the children choose from a variety of animal molds while the woodworkers build either the horse stool, the jackrabbit hat rack, or the reindeer magazine holder. The Computer class, Nature Photography, and Pottery class work much in the same way. Their programs, pictures, and projects are all structured around animals. Likewise, the Group Adventures class spends much of its time near the seashore or out on the nature trails. Working as a group, the campers learn that many obstacles are better overcome by a group than an individual.

The camp routinely begins the day with songs followed by an activity, class time, sports, and a special event. Special Event is an important part of each camp day. During this half hour, speakers from outside of camp come in to talk with the campers. This year the Museum of Science visited us with boa constrictors, Cheryl Baggeroer's (computer counselor) father came to talk about Arctic animals, and Benthos (an underwater contractor) stopped by to discuss its underwater man-powered submarine.

The combination of classes with songs, activity, sports, and special event proves to be a winning formula with the campers. At the Animal Friends Summer Camp, each new day is a new opportunity to learn more about our animal friends.

*Vicky Smythe of the New England Wildlife Center introduces a feathered friend to Mackey School students Venus Ortiz, Carla Lainez and Elizabeth Alvarez.*

*Demonstrating their newly-learned farm animal skills are campers Patrick Wendell (above), Michael Clarke (right), and (below, l to r) Max Riffin, and Katherine Kelleher.*

NEWSFRONT
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

## NEW GUIDE FOR AIDS PATIENTS WITH PETS

The Pets Are Wonderful Support organization (PAWS) has published a brochure titled "Safe Pet Guidelines," designed to minimize the risk of contracting infections from a pet, a special concern shared by persons with AIDS/HIV and others with compromised immune systems that render them particularly susceptible to infections. PAWS is a California nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people with AIDS keep their pets, through direct services, education and financial aid. PAWS provides pet food and supplies, assistance with pet care (walking, grooming, etc.), foster homes for pets during owners' hospitalizations, and other direct services. The brochure can be obtained from PAWS, P.O. Box 460689, San Francisco, CA 94146, Tel. 1-415-824-4040. The organization stresses that the Center for Disease Control has stated that there is no evidence that dogs, cats or non-primate animals can contract AIDS/HIV, or transmit it to human beings.

## TOP BILLING FOR LEAGUE PETS

This billboard in Brighton is one of five located around the greater Boston area carrying the League's message that "Love comes in all colors and sizes," in the form of adoptable pets at the League's four shelters. They were made possible by the generosity of Ackerley Communications, Inc. which donated the billboard space to help carry the League's public service appeal to as broad an audience as possible. They will be on display through October 31st, with messages updated each month to highlight timely events, such as "Adopt-a-Dog Month" in October.

## PET READING SELECTION

*Photo by Rose Marston from Dogs and Their Women.*

**Dogs and Their Women**, by Barbara Cohen and Louise Taylor. A heartwarming collection of photographs and stories of love and loyalty between women and their canine companions, this book explores the special emotional bonds between women and their dogs, with each story told in the woman's own words. Little, Brown and Company, $9.95.

## LENDING A HELPFUL EAR

League alumnus "MacDoogle," who was trained at Red Acre Farm as a Hearing Dog for Donna Bennett of North Carolina, waits as his mistress talks on the TTY telephone after being alerted to the call by her canine assistant. Red Acre trainer Dana C. Crevling recently updated the League on "MacDoogle's" progress: "Besides his Hearing Dog duties working as her new ears, MacDoogle accompanies Donna to her work at an elementary school and helps Donna teach deaf children. He has appeared on TV, been featured in newspaper articles, participated in the Museum of Life and Science, Pet Day in Durham, N.C., and Deaf Awareness Week activities in Wilson, N.C.

## GOOD NEIGHBORS!

The League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham conducted a cooperative program this summer with neighboring Noble & Greenough School, supplementing the school's summer day camp program with additional classes on farm animals and urban ecology. Here shelter manager Robert Walsh and barn manager Alan Cunningham demonstrate animal rescue equipment at a special event attended by 200 elementary through junior high children; and (right) Alan Cunningham introduces the "new kid on the block" to youngsters attending one of his four farm classes. Jeanette Bider, assistant shelter manager, presented three two-day programs on urban ecology.

## NEW SAFEGUARDS IN CAMBRIDGE FOR LABORATORY ANIMALS

The Cambridge City Council passed a historic ordinance this past summer extending protective regulations for the 60,000 laboratory animals used each year in Cambridge's 13 research institutions. Some of these research facilities had been inspected under state regulations, and some were covered by federal guidelines, but many of the facilities were not covered under any regulations and not subject to inspection. The federal Animal Welfare Act, which prohibits cruelty to animals, exempts rodents from the law.

The Cambridge ordinance, described as the first of its kind in the nation to be passed by a municipality, requires the appointment of an independent commissioner of laboratory animals to oversee the regulations, and the establishment in each research organization of an animal care committee to oversee decisions regarding the use of animals for research.

## SHE TAKES THE CAKE!

Colleagues, family and friends gathered in the League auditorium Friday, July 21, to share best wishes and fond memories with Mrs. Eleanor Metro as she retired after twenty-five years of dedicated service to the League. Mrs. Metro, who started with the League as bookkeeper, served for the past five years as membership coordinator.

# Why Dogs Bite

Do you know what to do if you meet a strange dog? How can you tell if a dog is not friendly? Do you know what makes a dog bite? What should you do if a dog bites you or a friend? These are all very important questions that you should know the answers to. Here are some answers to these questions, that can help keep you from getting bitten.

### Why do dogs bite?

1. Dogs may bite when they are surprised, excited, or scared. You may not mean to surprise a dog but a sudden touch or loud noise will scare it, especially if the dog is asleep. Running, yelling, and loud noises can excite or scare a dog. If you see a strange dog, stop moving until the dog has gone on his way or you may be bitten.
2. A dog may bite you while he is protecting his property or something that belongs to his owner. The dog may guard a yard, a car, or front doorstep. If you walk into the yard, or reach into a parked car, you may be bitten. A dog may also protect a person and bite you if it looks like you might hurt that person.
3. A dog will often protect his food. Do not try to pet a dog while it is eating, because a dog may think you want to take away his food.
4. A mother dog will protect her puppies from harm or danger. If you see a mother dog with puppies, do not try to pet them; she may think you want to hurt them.
5. If a dog is hurt or sick it is probably frightened and may bite you out of fear or pain. **DO NOT TOUCH** a sick or injured dog; ask an adult for help or call your local Humane Society or Animal Control Officer.
6. If two dogs are fighting, **DO NOT** try to stop the fight with your bare hands; you may get bitten. Ask an adult to stop the fight by using a broom or by squirting them with a hose.

# FRIENDS

### How can you tell if a dog is not friendly?

There are some signs that you can look for to see if a dog is unfriendly.

1. The dog may growl or bark at you.
2. It may show its teeth.
3. The hair on the middle of the dog's back and neck may stand up.
4. The dog may flatten its ears towards the back of its head.
5. The dog may walk stiffly and hold its tail up in the air.

These are all signs that should warn you to be careful and stay away from a dog showing any of these signs.

### What should you do if you see a strange or unfriendly dog?

1. When you see a loose dog up ahead, calmly cross over to the other side of the street.
2. If a dog chases you while you are riding a bicycle, get off the bike and try to keep the bike between you and the dog.

If a strange dog comes up to you:

3. Remain calm and stand still for a moment.
4. Always face the dog and watch it, but **do not** stare into the dog's eyes.
5. Speak softly but firmly to the dog, saying things like, "Good dog."
6. When the dog is calm, slowly back away. **DO NOT RUN!**
7. If a dog is not growling or showing his teeth, it's okay to let him sniff you—that's his way of finding out if he knows you. If you let him sniff your hand you should make a fist and let him sniff the back of it; this way he cannot bite your fingers.

### What should you do if a dog bites you or someone else?

1. Tell your parents, teacher or an adult right away.
2. Wash the cut (bite) with soap and water and then call your doctor.
3. Remember what the dog looked like: what color, did he have a long or short tail, did he have long or short ears. This is important because the dog has to be found and watched carefully for ten days, by your Animal Control Officer, to be sure that he does not have rabies or any other disease that could make you sick.

Remember, you should never go up to a strange dog. If you can remember this and the other rules about strange or unfriendly dogs, you hopefully will never be bitten. Take the following quiz and see how much you learned.

| | True | False |
|---|---|---|
| 1. If you are running when you see a strange dog, run even faster. | ____ | ____ |
| 2. If a strange dog comes up to you, stand still, be calm, and softly say "Good dog." | ____ | ____ |
| 3. Dogs may bite if they are scared, hurt or protecting property. | ____ | ____ |
| 4. It's okay to pet a strange dog if it is on a leash or in a car. | ____ | ____ |
| 5. When a dog is eating, do not touch him. | ____ | ____ |

**Answers:** 1. False 2. True 3. True 4. False 5. True

# PETS IN THE PICTURE

1

**1** Doris Flint of Cohasset shares this photo of her cocker spaniels "Surrey" (left), who is 16 years old, and "Harvey," 18. "Surrey is 90% blind and deaf, but otherwise in good health. Harvey is slightly hard of hearing . . . other than moving slower when getting up and down, he too is still in good health." She attributes their well-being to "Lots of TLC!"

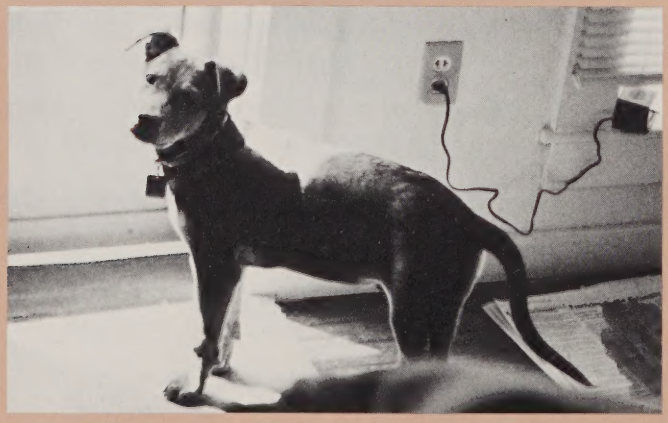
2

**2** "I'm sending these pictures so you can see how she lives in comfort and love," writes Isabelle Cassidy of Kingston, N.H., owner of "Crystal Angel," adopted from the League's Pine Ridge shelter in 1988. "She is the queen of the house and has brought us much joy and companionship. God bless the Animal Rescue League for all the good work and love you show toward our dear little and big pets."

3

**3** "She's such a funny little cat, with a lovable personality," says Norma Infusino of Hingham, describing her pet "Mitzi," adopted last year from the League's Dedham shelter. "As you can see, she rules the roost!"

**4** "Roni (short for Pupper-roni) is GREAT," writes Laura Bowker of East Falmouth who adopted her pet from the League this spring. "He truly has the best personality of any dog I've ever met. He loves everyone and everything (including our cat who doesn't exactly return the many kisses and drools). I'm sure if more people knew the joy and unconditional love of a dog, you guys would be out of business!"



4

**5** Adopted from the League two years ago, "Macaroon has brought us nothing but love and joy since then," writes Andrea Bergheiser of Natick. "Everything you do for all animals is wonderful!"

5

# COME TO THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON'S

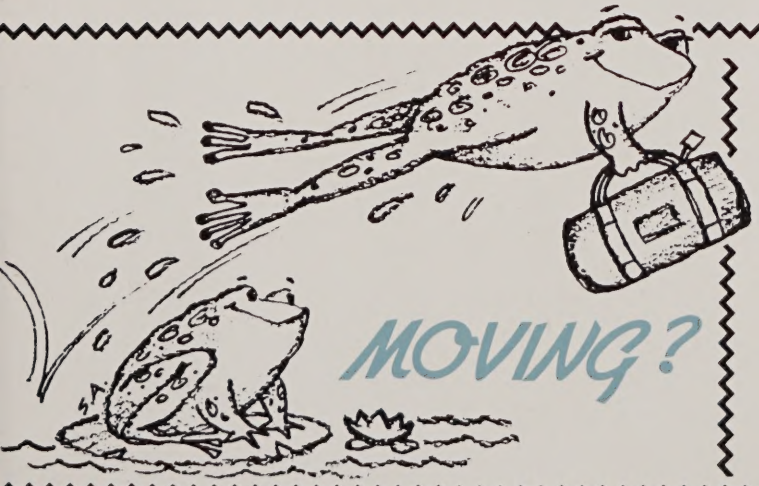
*To Benefit Homeless Animals*

## Thursday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts. Boston**

Gift Tables • Baked Goods • Shelter Tours

Demonstrations by Boston Police Horses & Dogs




Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you **receive** OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS without interruption.

Old Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(please print or attach mailing label)

New Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.

*Second prize, adult color: Frank Weldon, Danvers.*

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117